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2020-11-23

Hispanofilipino Literature Exhibit

Fater, Charlotte

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Michigan Library Scholars | Capstone Project | August 21, 2020

Hispanofilipino Literature Exhibit

Charlotte Fater

Mentors: Fe Susan Go, Marlon Sales, and Barbara Alvarez





Project Overview

- Design an exhibit as part of the program Sites of Translation in the Multilingual Midwest
- Research the history of the Philippines and its literature
- Identify additional materials for use in exhibit
- Create wall panels and a layout for the display of physical materials



Exhibit Objectives and Personal Goals

- Educate visitors on history, literature, and translation in the Philippines
- Showcase the U-M library collections
- Expand my knowledge about the history and literature of the Philippines
- Learn practical skills related to exhibit design

The background features a series of concentric circles in a light beige color, some solid and some dashed, creating a subtle pattern. At the bottom, there is a horizontal border with a detailed floral and leaf design in black lines.

Challenges and Solutions



#1

CHALLENGE

- Lack of access to the physical materials

SOLUTION

- Digital scans, cardboard boxes, and index cards



#2

CHALLENGE

- Design accessibility and relative size

SOLUTION

- A contrast check and a reality check

Evolution of a Wall Panel

1

First Encounters

The first Spanish expedition reached the archipelago in 1521, but it was not until 1542 that the name *Philippines* (or *Felipinas* in its archaic Castilian spelling) was coined in honor of Philip II of Spain. It would take another two decades for Spain to establish its first settlements on the islands in 1565 upon the arrival of Miguel López de Legazpi.



Caption

Caption

QR code -
Boxer
Codex at H
library site



Caption



Although an economically profitless venture for the Spanish Crown, the Philippines remained a colony of Spain because it was regarded as a springboard for the Christianization of continental East Asia, particularly China.

2

First Encounters

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Translation figured prominently in the literary activities of this period. Although the official colonial policy was to teach the Spanish language, the Spanish priests who were directly in contact with Filipino peoples preferred learning and documenting native literacies in order to facilitate the process of conversion. It was for this reason that a number of grammars, dictionaries, and introductory religious texts published in Spanish and several local languages were produced throughout the colonial period. Many later editions of these texts have found their way to the University of Michigan and several other archives in the US Midwest.

3

First Encounters

Placeholder for digitized spreads of catechisms



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#3

CHALLENGE

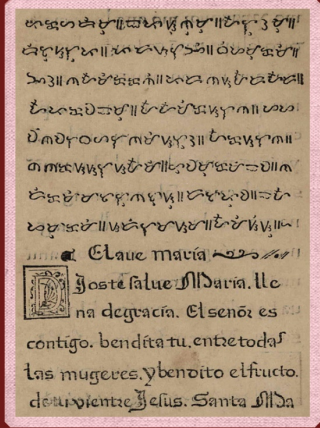
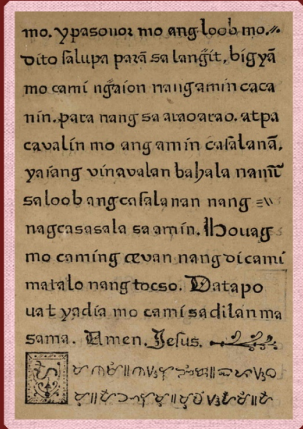
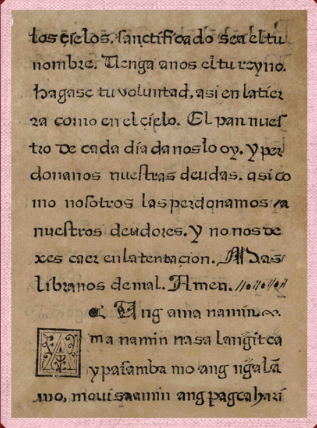
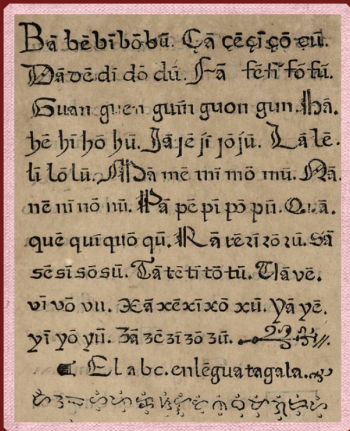
- Working from home - too few coworkers and too many distractions

SOLUTION

- Roommates and picnic tables
- 



The Final Product(s)



Many books and manuscripts produced during the early days of Spanish rule reflected this missionary role. One of the first two books ever printed in the Philippines in 1593 was the *Doctrina christiana*, a book of Catholic prayers in Spanish with an accompanying Tagalog translation written in both the Latin alphabet and the pre-Hispanic Filipino alphabet called baybayin.



Also worth mentioning is the *Boxer Codex*, a manuscript produced in the capital city of Manila around 1590. In addition to very vivid narrative descriptions of Asian cultures, it also contains a series of drawings depicting the peoples of the Philippines and its neighboring countries.



The two foundational novels of the Filipino nation were written originally in Spanish by the most illustrious of the ilustrados. They were the *Noli me tángere* (or *Noli*) and *El filibusterismo* (or *Fili*) of the intellectual and martyr José Rizal. The *Noli* was first printed in Berlin, Germany in 1887, while the *Fili*, its sequel, came out in Ghent, Belgium in 1891.

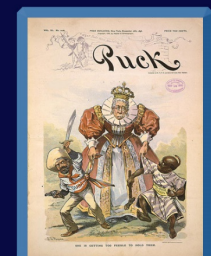
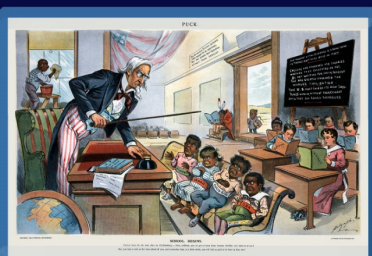


Since Spanish authorities banned the novels in the Philippines, the first Philippine edition got published only in 1899, a year after the fall of the Spanish Empire. It was around this time when the first translations of the novels were made. In addition to translation into various Philippine languages, a number of English-language translations of Rizal's novels have been produced over the years.

La Solidaridad
Democratic fortnightly
Year III
Monday, January 15, 1891 No. 47

PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS ARE IN VOEGE

It is not 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 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2188



SCAN ME



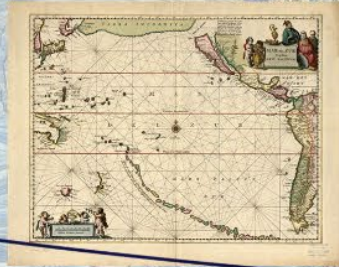
The Filipino newspaper *El Renacimiento* published its most famous editorial entitled “Aves de rapiña,” or Birds of Prey, in criticism of Worcester’s dubious fact-finding mission. It was Worcester who brought back to Michigan his collection of papers, photographs and other effects on the Philippines, which are now curated as the Worcester Philippine History Collection.

It is worth noting that the University of Michigan played a pivotal role in the American imperialist project in the Philippines. One of Michigan’s alumni, Dean C. Worcester, became the US Secretary of Interior of the Philippine Islands.

He also acted as the consultant of the University of Michigan Mission, whose objective was to gather archaeological and anthropological data on the Philippines. Worcester’s controversial research methods, which involved incursions into ancestral lands in search of precious metals, earned the ire of Filipino nationalists.

Explanation of the map routes

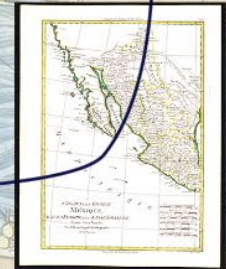
Map of Manila 1739



Translation, Memory, and the Archive: The Literary Worlds of the Spanish Philippines

Five hundred years ago, a fleet of around two hundred men aboard five Spanish galleons reached an unknown archipelago at the far ends of a vast ocean. Fueled by the desire to discover a trade route to the fabled Spice Islands, this expedition began its westward voyage from Europe two years earlier with an ambitious explorer who defected from Portugal at the helm. The explorer was Ferdinand Magellan. The ocean was the Pacific, which received its name from Magellan himself. And the archipelago would be known much later as the Philippines.

The year 1521 was pivotal in the history of the Philippines. But more than the romanticized (and rather problematic) idea that it was the year of its discovery, 1521 marks the first time this Southeast Asian archipelago came into contact with an emerging Spanish-speaking world centered around the Pacific. For centuries, the Philippines would serve as a point of exchange between East and West. It was a site where all manner of people met. It was where goods and ideas were trafficked along an international maritime pathway connecting Asia and the Americas. It was where different languages, cultures and literatures co-existed. At a time when many nation-states in Asia shunned the world, the Philippines was already a site of cultural and linguistic encounter. It was already a site of translation.





Lessons Learned

- The history of the Philippines
- Perfectionism: a double-edged sword
- What is history, who writes it, and why that matters

The Future of the Project

Hopefully, it will be possible to safely visit the exhibit in its final form in the Clark Library on the second floor of Hatcher Graduate starting in January, 2021.



Questions?